

OUR FATHER IS -A LOVING SHEPHERD

With our Father as our shepherd, everything is going to be Okay.

(John 10:1-4, 7-15) "I assure you: Anyone who doesn't enter the sheep pen by the door but climbs in some other way, is a thief and a robber. The one who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. The doorkeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought all his own outside, he goes ahead of them. The sheep follow him because they recognize his voice... I assure you: I am the door of the sheep. All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep didn't listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes only to steal and to kill and to destroy. I have come that they may have life and have it in abundance. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and doesn't own the sheep, leaves them and runs away when he sees a wolf coming. The wolf then snatches and scatters them. This happens, because he is a hired man and doesn't care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own sheep, and they know Me, as the Father knows Me, and I know the Father. I lay down My life for the sheep."

1. Our Shepherd/Father is Our LEADER

(3b-4) "He calls his own sheep by name and LEADS them out. When he has brought all his own outside, he goes ahead of them. The sheep follow him because they recognize his voice."

- A. Our Shepherd/Father leads us with great care.
- B. Our Shepherd/Father never sleeps or slumbers.

2. Our Shepherd/Father is Our SUPPLIER

- A. The sheep depend completely on the shepherd.
- B. The shepherd is devoted to feeding his sheep.

(9) "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved and will come in and go out and find PASTURE."

(Ezekiel 34:14) "I will tend them with good PASTURE, and their GRAZING place will be on Israel's lofty mountains. There they will lie down in a good GRAZING place; they will feed in rich PASTURE..."

3. Our Shepherd/Father is Our CARRIER

- A. The shepherd was always there to carry an injured sheep.
- B. We need a shepherd to pick us up and carry us.

(10) A thief comes only to steal and to kill and to destroy. I have come that they may have life and have it in abundance.

4. Our Shepherd/Father is Our PROTECTOR

- A. The shepherd guarded the sheep with his life.

(11) "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and doesn't own the sheep, leaves them and runs away when he sees a wolf coming. The wolf then snatches and scatters them."

(15) "I lay down my life for the sheep."